

## REMARKS

This preliminary amendment amends the specification to correct a typographical error that was found in the priority data. In addition, this amendment amends claim 26, cancels claims 1-25 and 37, and adds new claims 30-50. Claims 26-36 and 38-50 are pending in this case.

The claim amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed and do not add new matter. Support for the amendment to claim 26 and new claims 31-35, which include features related to the heel cushioning portion are supported in the original specification at least at page 4, line 27 through page 5, line 9, Figure 3, and at other locations in the specification and drawings. New claims 36-46 are supported at least in the claims as originally filed. New claims 47-50 are supported at least by the disclosure of Figure 6.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if such contact would be helpful in any way. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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